

THE Charleston Philatelist.

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. 1.

CHARLESTON, S. C., JANUARY, 1888.

No. 2

Comparative Scarcity of the United States Department Stamps.

GUSTAVE J. LUHN, JR.

(This article appeared in the *Philatelic fortnightly* a short time ago, but there were so many typographical errors that we do not think it out of place to reprint it.)

It is strangely noticeable that in each set of U. S. Department Stamps there are one or more rare stamps. This is the case in every set except the Interior and the Executive, and in the latter it may be said that each stamp is worth as much as the next. Considering the number of Stamps issued by each Department, this is the order in which they come, in regard to scarcity:

Executive.....	5,150	Agriculture	275,000
State.....	60,495	War.....	446,500
Justice.....	65,400	Interior....	1,058,475
Navy.....	247,230	Treasury..	7,842,500
Post Office.....	10,054,660		

In the Executive Department there is no particularly rare stamp, but all are quite rare to the average collector.

In the State Department the 90 cents is the most valuable, and close upon it comes the 24 cents. All are comparatively scarce, in the \$2, \$5, \$10 and \$20 of course the \$2 is the least rare, and the others go up according to face value. There were about 360 of each of the three higher values issued. This makes them pretty scarce, when there are about 200,000 collectors in all parts of the world for them to be divided among.

In the Department of Justice, as usual, the 90 cents is the rarest. Next comes the 30 cents. The 3 cents is the commonest.

In the Navy Department the 90 cents is the rarest, and is closely followed by

the 7 cents. The 3 and 6 cents are the commonest.

In the Department of Agriculture, the higher values are the rarest, although there was a smaller number of the 12 cents issued than any other value. The 3 cents is the commonest.

In the War Department the 90 cents is the least easily obtained. It is followed by the 7 cents. The other values are quite common.

In the Interior Department there is no particularly rare stamp. All are quite easily obtained.

In the Treasury Department the 24 cents is the predominating stamp, then comes the 7 cents. It is followed by the 90 cents. The remainder are not worth much.

In the Post Office Department, among the stamps with the white surface, the 10 cents is by far the most valuable, and with the bluish surface, the 90 cents is worth most. The 24 cents of each comes in after the 10 and 90 cents. The 3 cents is worth least. The reason of this is that generally very few of the higher values were supplied to the smaller offices, and in some cases only the 3 cents was, thus making a greater demand for the low values than the higher. It is very much the same way with the out-of-the-way values, such as the 7 cents, &c. As it is, the 7 and 90 cents are generally the rarest, and the 3 and 6 cents the commonest.

It is always best to buy Department Stamps in complete sets, as they are gotten cheaper, and when you have bought a set that Department is finished with, and there is no more bother about what you have and what you have not; but there are some collectors whose means are limited and are not able to spend much money at once; then I would say, buy them as best suits your pocket.

FAULTS OF JUVENILE COLLECTORS.

When a small boy begins to collect stamps he commits faults, both many and ludicrous, such as placing stamps of one country on the pages designated for those of others; in the pronunciation of the names of the different countries; in the values (calling everything cents), and in the colors. These, however, are as nothing compared with some of the greater faults.

One of the many faults of the Juvenile Stamp Collector is perpetrated in pasting stamps in books, instead of fastening them in with hinges. A certain young friend of mine, about two years ago, received a new \$2.50 stamp album and set about to transfer his collection. He proceeded all right until he got to Mexico; he had a two cents green of the issue of 1884, and seeing a place in the book in the first issue he cemented the stamp in the place of the 2 r. The stamp remains there yet, having refused to be coaxed out by fire or water.

The young collector always aims for quantity and not quality, and by this another great fault is committed. It is this: When a youth begins to collect stamps he generally begins at the top of his house and goes all the way down to the cellar searching for old letters. He very often finds some, and perhaps some very rare stamps on them; not knowing the value of these, he shows them to somebody who does, and who (if he does not possess them already) immediately sets to work to try to get them by offering about 100 varieties of foreign stamps for the lot.

To a beginner 100 varieties is a large number, and he says to himself, "What? 100 different foreign stamps for a few 'old' United States? Why certainly I will swap, I can get a plenty more like these." There is where he commits the fault, although unintentionally; he may never see another like those which he has just given away; he does not realize what he has done until it is too late, then he wishes he had not been so anxious to get rid of his "old" United States stamps.

All collectors like to buy as many stamps as they are able for as little money as possible and consequently they get "taken in" with counterfeits, as they are cheaper than genuine stamps; but young and inexperienced collectors cannot tell the difference, and most of them would rather invest twenty-five cents in stamps than in a standard catalogue, by which they would be able to find out some idea of the value of the stamps which they buy, and when they see a stamp catalogued at \$1.00 and somebody offers it for five cents then they might know that it is a counterfeit. The only other way to remedy this fault is for them to buy their stamps from respectable dealers, and although they may have to pay a few cents more they will be sure of getting genuine stamps only.

Another fault is that young collectors (and some old ones too) are not observant enough. A stamp collector should be always wide-awake, so that he will observe everything, whether a stamp is perforated or imperforated, used or unused, gummed or ungummed, and should notice every detail in watermark, color and size of perforation, as these features are useful in distinguishing the date of issue, and very often make a big difference in price. The way to avoid many of these faults is to subscribe to stamp papers, and if possible join some Philatelic Society. A great many Societies refuse to admit any collectors under eighteen years of age, a fact which shows lack of sense of the managers. But now since the American Philatelic Association has been firmly built and admits collectors of any age, there is no excuse for collectors of any age placing stamps in the wrong places, buying counterfeits, &c.

The history of the Postage Stamps of the United States, by J. K. Tiffany, is the finest work ever written on the U. S. Stamps. It should be in the hands of every Philatelist. The price is \$2.00. It can be bought from the publisher of this paper.

THE SOUTHERN MAIL.

FUMIGATING FLORIDA MAILS.

B. M. TURNER, of the railway mail service, tells the Jacksonville *Times-Union* of the method of fumigating Tampa mails. He says:

To begin with, the mails from Tampa are brought out by our bob-tail train, which runs to the quarantine station with the mails in charge of the clerk from that postoffice. He opens the pouches and spreads the mail out on the shelves in the fumigating room, so as to get, in the most effectual manner, the full benefits of the sulphur fumes. The box in which the mails are placed is about 10 by 12 feet, and is made practically airtight. The roof is about seven feet in height. Along each side of this box is arranged three shelves of wire net work, with wide meshes; on the first of these, from the floor, is placed the paper mail, spread out so as to give the greatest surface area; the second is used for the letters, while the upper one is utilized for receiving the bags and pouches. Situated in the centre of this fumigating room is a large iron kettle, which holds about twenty-five gallons. The clerk when he comes out with the mail, which is early in the morning, opens all the pouches and spreads the mail out on the shelves. He then fills the kettle with live coals from pine wood and covers the top with sulphur, which is taken from a barrel just inside the door. After making these preparations he goes back to Tampa on the returning train. The attendants keep the fire renewed and the supply of sulphur replenished for twelve hours, which the Department thinks entirely removes all danger of infection.

"How do you manage about registered matter, which goes through in locked pouches?" asked the scribe.

"I have just received a telegram from Mr. T. E. Nash, general superintendent," said Mr. Turner, "which will obviate all trouble from this matter. He has instructed the postmaster at Tampa to send all registered letters in unlocked

pouches to the fumigating station, where they will be given exactly the same treatment, including the bags, as other mail receives. When they have received the full force of the sulphur fumes for twelve hours they are then locked in the through registered pouches and go as they do in ordinary times."

"Mr. Turner," said the reporter, "there has been some alarm felt about letting the postal clerks come into Jacksonville, owing to their coming in contact with the clerk running out from Tampa. Do you think there is any danger of their contracting the disease?"

"I am perfectly satisfied that there is not the slightest danger," said Mr. Turner. "Let me explain the manner of transferring the mails and you will, I think, coincide with my views. The postal clerk who leaves Jacksonville at 11.30 o'clock each day runs with the mail to Seffner, which is as far as that train goes. The bob-tail train from Tampa comes to that place to meet the fast mail train, and at this place the mails are transferred. The clerk from Jacksonville throws the mail from the door of his car to the door of the other mail car, standing on an adjoining track. The only point of contamination, if it might be given that name, is where the clerk from this place gives to the other clerk the registered letters with a book containing records of them. The one from Tampa simply writes his name across the book, which is then tossed back. The clerk from here then returns to Lakeland, where he spends the night and the next day, going down on the train the next evening to the fumigating station, where he gathers up the mail, puts it in the pouches, and is ready to take the train that night for Jacksonville."

Mr. Turner showed that in bringing the mails from Tampa the clerk leaves that place in the early morning with the outgoing mail. He goes to the fumigating station where the mail is arranged in the manner named, and it is only after being subjected to the strong fumes of sulphur for twelve hours that any one else handles it.

These precautions preclude the remotest possibility of any of the germs of the disease being carried through the agency of the mails, clerks or paraphernalia to outside places.

American Philatelic Association.

THE A. P. A. now has between three and four hundred members.

If you are not a member send your application to S. B. Bradt, Secretary, Grand Crossing, Ill. The dues of voting members are \$2.00 per year and of non-voting, (under 17 years) only \$1.00. The benefits of membership are very great.

Write for a sample copy of the *American Philatelist*, which is sent free to members.

Address :

LITERARY BOARD OF A. P. A.
P. O. Box 287, Philadelphia, Pa.

The *Youth's Ledger* is also sent free to members.

A BRANCH of the A. P. A. will be established in Charleston very soon. It must not be confounded with the Charleston Philatelic Society.

Philatelic Society of America.

THIS is a new venture in its line and it is to be hoped that it will be a success. One of the aims for which it has been started is to enable collectors to get stamps at wholesale prices and also to exchange their duplicates readily and it should certainly fill a long felt want. Another great advantage which it will have over other Societies is that one member has the same rights as another, which is the key-note of our success. While you have the chance of becoming a charter member you should join. The dues will be 75 cents or \$1.00. The election is expected to take place this month. All applications should be addressed to E. W. VOUTE,

307 Webster Ave. Chicago, Ill.

Canadian Philatelic Association.

THE C. P. A. has now nearly 75 members. The election of officers will soon take place so those who intend to join, should send their applications to the Secretary at once and have a hand in the management.

Address: JOHN R. HOOPER,
124 Slater St. Ottawa, Canada.

THERE is a tight pull between the *Toronto Philatelic Journal* and the *Niagara Falls Philatelist* for the office of Official Organ. We are in favor of the N. F. P. as we think that the Official Organ should be a Journal devoted exclusively to Philately and not to Philately and Numismatics.

If you think this paper is worth it, send 10 cents for one year's subscription. If you do not, we will give you a subscription—(for 10 cents).

BROTHER MEKEEL has been doing a big thing. He has offered to send the *Philatelic Journal of America* for 16 months at the regular yearly rate. Everybody should have taken advantage of this offer.

BROTHER VOUTE, of the *Stamp Collector's Figaro* will get out a big Christmas number containing nearly fifty pages.

THE December number of the *Youth's Ledger* contains a portrait of Mr. J. M. Hubbard, of Lake Village, N. H.

Persons sending us advertisements will please not forget to send remittance with the copy.

LOOK! I will give 25 foreign stamps for every stamp paper sent me, or 30 varieties for every copy of the *Philatelic Journal of America*.

Address, THIS OFFICE.

The Charleston Philatelist**SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.**

10 Cents.....Per Year.

ADVERTISING RATES.

1/2 inch, one insertion.....	20 cts.
1 " " ".....	35 "
2 " " ".....	60 "
1/2 column " ".....	\$1.00

TERMS

Cash in advance. Send stamps, silver, or postal note.

Address all communications to

GUSTAVE J. LUHN, JR.,**EDITOR AND PUBLISHER,**

65 VANDERHORST ST., Charleston, S. C.

VOL. I. JANUARY 1, 1888. No. 2

Entered at Post Office, at Charleston, S. C., as second-class matter.

SUBSCRIBE for this paper.

THE circulation of this paper is guaranteed to be 1,200 copies. Advertisers will find it a good paying medium. Give us a trial.

Two copies of this paper have been mailed to the publisher of every Philatelic Magazine known to us. Each one is requested to send two copies in return every month.

WE will insert a one page advertisement for the small amount of \$3.50 for one insertion.

VERY recently a collector of this city received a letter from a party in New York which had been sent to Charleston, California, instead of South Carolina. About two days after, he received a letter from the party who sent it asking him why he had not made returns. The whole trip only took about two weeks.

TO OUR READERS.

THE CHARLESTON PHILATELIST was first issued about November 1st, 1887, without any previous advertising or trumpeting. About 800 sample copies were mailed to collectors, and, we are happy to say, a great many favored us with subscriptions. On page 3 the following promise was made: "Our next issue will contain **8 pages** and **probably** a cover." Also, "The circulation of this paper is guaranteed to be 1000 copies per issue." True to our promise we have **8 pages** and have mailed **1,200** copies instead of 1,000. The cover will be added shortly. We have mailed a great many sample copies of this issue, and respectfully but earnestly request everybody who receives one to send **10 cents** for one year's subscription.

WE have received the following; the publishers will please accept our thanks: *Philatelic Journal of America*, *Western Philatelist*, *Toronto Philatelic Journal*, *Curiosity World*, *The Collector*, *Buckeye State Collector*, *Mohawk Standard*, *Niagara Falls Philatelist*, *Philatelic Gazette*, *Plain Talk*, *Philatelic Fortnightly*, *American Philatelist*, *Philatelic Herald*, *Witch City Philatelist*, *Youth's Ledger*, *Stamp Collectors' Figaro*.

On the 14th of December, we received a letter from Montreal, Can., bearing a two cents U. S. Stamp. On removing the stamp we found that a Canadian Stamp was there originally, but had been removed. As this is not the first time such a thing has happened, we promptly reported the facts to the Postmaster, who promised to do all in his power to have it stopped.

The Charleston Philatelic Society.

THIS Society has now fifteen members and a bright prospect of getting at least five more before January 1st. At a meeting held on December 9th, the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, It is reported that certain stamp dealers and others have petitioned the United States Post Office Department to reprint some of its obsolete postal issues, and

Whereas, Such reprinting and reproducing (being ostensibly for the aid of collectors) are entirely uncalled for by any Philatelic Student worthy of the name, but can only result mischievously and to the detriment of those engaged in preserving original specimens of rare and obsolete stamps and envelopes, and

Whereas, Such reprinting would lower the United States to the level of such governments as Antioquia, Baden, Bergedorf, Roman States, etc., whose officials have adopted this means of increasing their revenues, therefore be it

Resolved, That The Charleston Philatelic Society strongly protests against all reprinting by the United States Post Office Department, as tending to throw discredit on collections already formed, and as destroying the interest and pleasure which all true collectors feel in gathering the postage stamps of the different governments; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these Resolutions be sent to the *News and Courier*, *American Philatelist*, *Philatelic Journal of America*, *Western Philatelist*, and *Stamp Collectors' Figaro*, and that a

marked copy of the official organ of this Society be sent to the Third Assistant Postmaster General.

The prize drawing, which was to have taken place on the 30th of December, has been postponed to January 13th, at 8 o'clock P. M. The election of officers for the ensuing year will also take place. All members are requested to attend. This paper is sent free to members.

All communications relating to this Society should be sent to

GUSTAVE J. LUHN, JR., *Sec'y.*

65 Vanderhorst St., Charleston, S. C.

NOTES.

Subscribe for this paper, only 10 cents per year.

Recently, as one of the letter carriers was opening the box at the corner of King and Beaufain Streets, a canary bird flew out. How the bird got there is still a mystery.

Mr. Wm. P. Brown, of New York, has issued the seventh edition of his priced catalogue. It contains 32 pages closely printed.

The other day a small boy was heard to remark that he used to keep stamps once, and had one stamp from every City except Africa.

In a torchlight procession, held in this City in the first part of November, all the letter carriers paraded in rubber coats and caps, and carried a banner which read "Men of Letters."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Always mention this paper when answering advertisements.

—ASIATIC STAMPS—

For sale cheap. Look at these prices: All stamps unused and guaranteed genuine.

China, 1886, 1c. Green.....	03
" " 3c. Lilac.....	06
Japan, 1879, 3c. Orange.....	04
" 1883, 1c. Green.....	03
" " 2c. Carmine.....	04
" Postal Card 1c.....	03
Shanghai, 20c. Green.....	04

On orders under 25 cents, 2 cents stamp must be enclosed for postage. Order early as the supply is limited.

J. H. KLINCK,

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INTERNATIONAL STAMP CO.

—DEALERS IN—

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Stamps sent on approval. References required.

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OF FOREIGN STAMPS FOR CASH.

We will pay the following prices in exchange, or cash, for Confederate Stamps:

	UNUSED	USED
1861, 5c. Green.....	15	10
" 10c. Blue.....	25	15
1862, 2c. Green.....	90	90
" 5c. Blue.....	15	10
" 10c. Rose.....	60	60
1863, 2c. Red.....	60	25
" 10c. Blue.....	1 00	1 00
" 20c. Green.....	60	25
1864, 1c. Orange.....	10	—

Locals wanted also. Send what you have and I will remit immediately. Address,

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65 VANDERHORST ST.,

CHARLESTON, S. C.

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To responsible parties. Commission 25 per ct.

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The Approval Books which we are sending out are voted "just splendid" by all who use them. Each book contains 64 stamps, marked at prices ranging from 1 cent to 25 cents each.

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To sell stamps from them at 25 per cent. commission. Send a good reference and receive a book by return mail. Address,

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CHARLESTON, S. C.

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H. E. FRENCH, A. P. A.

Box 60,

NIAGARA FALLS, SOUTH ONT.

N. B.—All approval sheets sent me *must* contain 3 cents for return postage.

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—AND—

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25 per ct commission. Special sheets for agents. My stock of CONFEDERATE STAMPS is most complete, and comprises many rarities.

Price List on application. (None sent on approval.)

Your orders solicited.

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234 KING STREET,

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—UNUSED SETS—

Persia, Official, 4 v.....	25
Roman States, 7 v.....	15
Sardinia, 8 v.....	10
Helligoland, wrap. 8 v.....	08
Bavaria, ref. let. 6 v.....	10
Alsace, rev. type. 7 v.....	25
Hamburg, envs. 7 v.....	15

Post free. Order early, as the supply is limited. Address,

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STAMP COLLECTORS' FIGARO.

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Mention this paper. Address,

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CHICAGO, ILL.

ENTIRE UNUSED ENVELOPES.

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We have a large number of the following which we will sell at the annexed prices:

Persia, 6s. Red.....	20
Hawaii, 1c. Green.....	07
" 2c. Red.....	10
Switzerland, 5c. Brown.....	05
" 10c. Rose.....	10
" 25c. Green.....	15
" 30c. Blue.....	20
One of each for.....	75

All post free. Address,

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M. TRIEST,

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Sends *Stamps on Approval* to any party who sends a written reference.

25 PER CENT. COMMISSION TO AGENTS.

The Swiss Stamps

Of the 1882 issue are generally so badly cancelled that it is very difficult to distinguish them. In order to get around this difficulty we have ordered out a large lot of the 6 lower values, unused, and are prepared to sell them for **20 cents** per set of six. These stamps are very neat and they will have a large sale, so you had better order early. Address

GUSTAVE J. LUHN, JR.,

65 Vanderhorst St., Charleston, S. C.

The Canadian Philatelist.

A large monthly journal for collectors. Exchange department **free** to everybody. All exchangers should subscribe at once. Subscription to United States and Canada **35 cents** per annum. Foreign Countries **50 cents** per annum. Advertising rates upon application. **Sample free.** Address

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—STAMP ALBUMS.—

—WILLARD'S.—

Boards $\frac{1}{2}$ cloth	25
Cloth, extra gilt	50

It is not necessary to give a description of these albums, as they are so widely known.

—FOREST CITY—

This is a new album for beginners. It contains spaces for 2000 stamps, has a neat and attractive cover and sells for only..... 25c. All post free. Address

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